

Travel Policy Review



Introductions:

Tell us a little about yourself:

- What's your name?
- Where do you work and what do you do?



Information we'll be covering:

- Review of Travel Policy and website.
- The Travel Form, Fields and Checklist.
- Practice Completing the Form.
- Access and Entry into GEARS.
- Tools: Review Vendors. Voucher Activity Inquiry, Find an Existing Voucher, Payment Information.
- Practice Entering into GEARS.
- Contact Information.
- Questions and Answers.
- BONUS - What is a GEARS Update?



Everything you ever wanted to know about Travel is on line at <http://mdcourts.gov/administration/travel.html>

[Administration](#)
[Closings/Delays](#)
[Court Holidays](#)
[In Memoriam](#)
[Travel & Expense](#)

Travel & Expense

Current Mileage Rate

Travel taken **ON or AFTER** January 1, 2019:
58 cents per mile

Travel taken **before** January 1, 2019:
54.5 cents per mile

[Memo re Mileage Reimbursement Rate change \(1/3/19\)](#)

Standard Meal Allowances

	Effective July 1, 2017
Breakfast	\$10.00
Lunch	\$12.00
Dinner	\$25.00
Total	\$47.00

[Memo re Standard Meal Allowance Rate Change effective \(7/01/17\)](#)

Before July 1, 2017: Breakfast \$9; Lunch \$11; Dinner \$25; Total \$45

Expense Account Forms

- [Judicial Branch Expense Account Form - Travel taken on or after January 1, 2019](#)
- [Judicial Branch Expense Account Form - Travel taken before January 1, 2019](#)
- [Judicial Branch Expense Account Form Instructions - \(Step-by-Step\)](#)
- [Judicial Branch Expense Account Form - Instruction Template](#)
- [GEARS Checklist for Processing the Expense Reimbursement](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

- State Joint Travel Regulations - Judicial Branch Travel Policy (effective 09/20/17)
*Includes the latest updates:
C#4(E) Travel within Annapolis area
C#4(F) Use of personal vehicles
- FAQ - State Joint Travel Regulations - Judicial Branch Travel Policy (effective 09/20/17)
- Out of State Meal and Incidental Expense Allowance
- Out of Country Meal and Incidental Expense Allowance

TRAVEL CONTACTS

- Travel Coordinator**
Allison Leebrick
Procurement
410-260-1417
Fax: 410-974-2066
allison.leebrick@mdcourts.gov
- Travel Policy and Form**
Tammy Sitar
Budget and Finance
410-260-1419
tammy.sitar@mdcourts.gov



Policy Information:

As always, you may find all travel information and forms on CourtNet at:

<http://www.courts.state.md.us/administration/travel.html>.

Highlights of the policy include:

1. The Standard Meal Allowances as established by the Department of Budget and Management are used for In-State travel.
2. The General Services Administration Per Diem Meal and Incidental Expense rates are used for Out-of-State travel. Details and rates can be found with this link:
<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877>
3. The U.S. Department of State Foreign Per Diem Meal and Incidental Expense rates are used for Out-of-Country travel. Details and rates can be found with this link:
https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp
4. Out-of-State travel, with the exception of Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia, requires written approval in advance.
5. A non-employee volunteer, speaker or applicant is not required to record commute miles. The expense form includes a question as to whether the requestor is a Judiciary employee or not.
6. Agendas must be provided for any conference or workshop which is not held at the JECC and for which meal reimbursement is requested.



**official
policy**

[illegible]

The most current Expense Account Form:

Will not have the fields numbered.
(This is the Instruction Template.)

Has a space in the header for Total Commute Miles.

Has check boxes for overnight lodging.

Has question asking whether employee.

- Will always be available at:
<http://mdcourts.gov/administration/travel.html>

Remember: Outdated forms will be rejected.



Commute Miles are:

- The total miles you travel from home to work and back home each day.
- Entered in the Header Section of the Expense Report and will automatically fill in on the lower section when travel is entered correctly.
- Subtracted from the Total Miles Traveled.
- Applicable to everyone (except Senior Judges, Non-employee Volunteers, Applicants, or Speakers).
- Must be deducted even if you are working on a day that you would not typically be working (such as a weekend).

Tips to Remember:

Total Miles Traveled entered on the bottom should be from your home to your destination(s) and then back to home (excluding any personal miles driven).

When one trip involves overnight and multiple days, the total miles can be listed on only the last day, which allows the commute miles to only be deducted once. Territory details should be listed for each day.

The number of Commute Miles should be the same on each Expense Report submitted⁷ unless you move.



Current In-State Standard Meal Allowance (7/1/17):

100% ("Non-travel days" and more than 12 Hours)

Breakfast	\$10.00
Lunch	\$12.00
<u>Dinner</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>

Daily Allowance \$47.00

75% (Travel Days)

Breakfast	\$ 7.50
Lunch	\$ 9.00
<u>Dinner</u>	<u>\$18.75</u>

Daily Allowance \$35.25

- You must be in travel status for **more than** 12 hours to be eligible for any meal reimbursement. This would include travel within one day.
- Start and end times are required on the form to determine any and all meal eligibility.
- When in travel status for less than 24 hours in one calendar day, reimbursement is at 100%.
- When your travel involves overnight multiple days, meal reimbursement is at 75% on the travel to/from days.
- You do not need to provide receipts for meals.
- All Meal Allowances must be reduced for all meals (including continental) that were provided by the training or the hotel and whether eaten or not.



Receipts and Backup:

Receipts are needed for:

- Lodging
- Air, Rail and Ground Transportation (including allowable tips)
- Car Rental
- Parking (except when a meter is used)
- Miscellaneous Expenses

Backup is needed for:

- Out-of-State Travel - A copy of the approval from the Chief Judge or State Court Administrator must be attached to the voucher.
- An agenda is required when meal reimbursement is requested and the event is not held at the Judicial College (JCECC).
- Reimbursement for meals provided at any function - An attendees list must be attached (not a relevant situation for most).



Tips:

- Tips for hotel housekeeping services are not reimbursable.
- Tips of up to 15% for ground transportation are reimbursable and must be included on receipt.
- Tips for porters and luggage assistance are reimbursable at \$1.00 per bag, if you chose to tip.



Form Checklist:

The following items should be carefully checked on each Judicial Branch Expense Account form & voucher:

- The correct form is used and attached.
- Can fill all columns starting at the left, as long as in date order.
- All required information is entered.
- The Department and Unit fields are flexible, but should provide enough information to know where the person works and what their position is.
- The total roundtrip commute miles are entered and correct.
- The total miles traveled are calculated correctly.
- The purpose of travel is completed and understandable.
- The date of travel is filled in along with travel status start and end times.



Form Checklist continued:

The following items should be carefully checked on each Judicial Branch Expense Account form & voucher:

- If meals are provided, the Standard Meal Allowance **MUST** be reduced for the meal allowance for those applicable meals.
- Meal reimbursements are reduced to 75% of the Standard Meal Allowance for the first and last travel days of concurrent/overnight travel.
- Any Out of State travel must have an approval letter attached to the voucher from the State Court Administrator or Chief Judge.
- Any travel days listed beyond 90 days of request date must receive approval from the State Court Administrator before processing in GEARS.
- Ensure that receipts for parking, taxis, vans, shuttles or airport limousines (including tips), Rental Cars, Ferries are attached
- Any other required information is provided, such as nature of miscellaneous expenses.
- Form is signed by the requestor and their supervisor. If a judge or clerk of court, a supervisor signature is not required.



Misc Information:

- When sharing a ride, you are not eligible for any mileage reimbursement, other than what you may have incurred to meet your ride.
- If multiple days of travel, display each day in middle of form, whether you incurred any expenses or not. (Do not consolidate into one column.)
- Can complete all columns to minimize the quantity of vouchers needed. However, please ensure that all columns are in consecutive date order from left to right.
- You cannot claim extra miles because you are starting your trip at a further point than your normal home.
- If public transportation is used, an employee still has a normal commute.



Form Completion: Scenario 1

- Jane Smith attended a GEARS training at the JECC on January 16.
- Complete all required fields using fictitious information if not provided.
- Assume employee.
- Complete all “required” fields.
- She traveled 53 miles round trip.
- Breakfast and lunch were provided.
- She left at 7am and returned home at 4pm.
- Her commute is 24 miles round trip.
- Calculate her reimbursement.

Form Completion: Scenario 2

- Jane Smith attended a GEARS training at the JECC on January 16.
- Complete all required fields using fictitious information if not provided.
- She was required to stay in a hotel on the 1st two nights, for which she paid \$157.00 per night.
- She traveled 120 miles round trip.
- The following meals were provided:
 1. Breakfast and lunch on day 2
 2. Breakfast on day 3
 3. She was home for dinner on day 3 and she elected not to include this amount for reimbursement.
- She left at 7am on day 1 and returned home at 4pm on day 3.
- Her commute is 24 miles round trip.
- She was required to pay a toll of \$4.00 each way.
- Calculate her reimbursement. What receipt(s) does she need to include? (Hint - the form indicates the answer!)

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What do I need to get access to GEARS?

1. You need to have a GEARS User ID - Complete the GEARS Security Access form that can be found on the GEARS site. Select the role of “Complete Expense Reports”.
2. Utilize the GEARS production link that can be found on the GEARS site under Launch PeopleSoft.

<https://gears.mdcourts.gov/psp/fsprd/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>

3. Remember your password!
4. Contact Service Now for any assistance, 410-260-1114.



What reimbursements should you process in GEARS?

All mileage reimbursement forms should be processed locally in GEARS with the exception of reimbursements that are applicable to grants (i.e. FCCIP/CANDO). These forms should be mailed to the respective addresses as indicated on the forms or guidance that is distributed at the events.

Senior Judge forms can be mailed to the AOC, unless the judge has the support of a Judicial Assistant.

What PCA/Speedchart should be used:

Use your court/department expenditure PCA or if processing for a judge:

30001 - Circuit Court Judges

20011 - Court of Special Appeals Judges

20021 - Court of Special Appeals ADR

10061 - Court of Appeals Judges

Accounts:

0401 Instate Travel

0403 Out of State Travel



Review Vendors:

The below navigation should be used to determine a “vendor’s” GEARS ID. The best search method is to use the company’s FEIN or person’s Social Security number. (SSN will never display in GEARS, but can be used in your search.) You should also always verify the address. We can have multiple vendors with the same way FEIN, but different addresses.

Favorites ▾

Main Menu ▾ > Vendors ▾ > Vendor Information ▾ > Add/Update ▾ > Review Vendors

Review Vendors

Search Criteria

*SetID

Contains ▾

Equal to ▾

Vendor Status ▾

Name

Withholding Name

Address

Vendor ID

Equal to ▾

Classification ▾

Type ▾

Persistence ▾

Short Name

City

Country

State

Postal

Bank Account #

Customer Number

ID Type

VAT Registration ID

Withholding Tax ID

Max Rows

Search

Clear

Search Results

Personalize | Find | View All | 1 of 1 | First | Last

Main Information

Additional Vendor Info

Audit Information

Actions	Vendor ID	Short Name	FEIN Number	Mail Code	Name 1	Address	Address Line 2	City	State	Postal Code	Status
▼ Actions	0000002181	SITARTAMMY-001		000	SITAR TAMMY	509 VICTORIA DR		STEVENSVILLE	MD	21866-0000	Approved

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Voucher Activity Inquiry:

This page provides details and statuses on all of the vouchers that you have processed. You will need to enter your name and your PCA. You should also select the check boxes to exclude the deleted and closed vouchers.

Favorites ▾Main Menu ▾>Accounts Payable ▾>Review Accounts Payable Info ▾>Vouchers ▾>Voucher Activity Inquiry

Voucher Activity Inquiry

*Business Unit

= ▾

MDJUD 🔍

Voucher ID

Begins w/ ▾

🔍

Invoice Number

Begins w/ ▾

🔍

Gross Invoice Amount

▾

PO Number

Begins w/ ▾

🔍

Vendor ID

Begins w/ ▾

🔍

Entered By

Begins w/ ▾

ROSE.FINNEY 🔍

Program Cost Account

Begins w/ ▾

30001 🔍

Approp Year From

🔍

Approp Year To

🔍

Acct Dt From

🔍

Acct Date To

🔍

Exclude Deleted Vouchers:

☐

Exclude Closed Vouchers:

☐

Voucher Description

Contains ▾

Invoice Date From

🔍

Invoice Date To

🔍

Project ID

🔍

Supplier Name

Vendor Search

Account From

🔍

Account To

🔍

Matching, Approvals, Status Search Options

Budget Status ▾

Post Status ▾

Transaction Status ▾

Match Status ▾

Approval Status ▾

Search

Clear

Click Clear to Refresh Search

Search results

Personalize | Find | View All | 🔍 | 📄 | 📊

First 1-3 of 3 Last

Business Unit	Transaction Status	Voucher	Voucher Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount	Voucher Line	District
1 MDJUD	Paid by State	00027766	7TH CIRCUIT COURT CONFERENCE	20131115KA	11/25/2013	32.66	1	
2 MDJUD	Paid by State	00035155	Mileage-7th Judicial Cir Conf	20131115HE	01/07/2014	31.64	1	
3 MDJUD	Paid by State	00188341	Travel to Judicial Institute	20150918JA	09/18/2015	28.75	1	

< >



How to Find an Existing Voucher:

Many times, you may receive an email stating that a change needs to happen to a voucher that you created. Please be sure to correct the existing vouchers and not create new vouchers! You may reference the tip sheet, How to Find an Existing Voucher, for assistance. In most cases, you can search directly with the voucher number, but as shown there are many other options.

[Favorites](#) > [Main Menu](#) > [Accounts Payable](#) > [Vouchers](#) > [Add/Update](#) > [Regular Entry](#)

GEARS
MARYLAND JUDICIARY

Voucher

Enter any information you have and click Search. Leave fields blank for a list of all values.

[Find an Existing Value](#) | [Add a New Value](#)

Search Criteria

Business Unit =

Voucher ID contains

Invoice Number begins with

Invoice Date =

Short Vendor Name begins with

Vendor ID begins with

Vendor Name begins with

Voucher Style =

Related Voucher begins with

Entry Status =

Voucher Source =

Incomplete Voucher =

Ref Doc begins with

☐ Case Sensitive

[Search](#) [Clear](#) [Basic Search](#) [Save Search Criteria](#)

How to see the voucher payment status:

The voucher activity inquiry page will give you this information, which you can then drill into. Another option is to go directly into the voucher and review the AOC payment page (shown below).

FavoritesMain MenuAccounts PayableVouchersAdd/UpdateRegular Entry

GEARS

SummaryRelated DocumentsInvoice InformationAOC MD PaymentPaymentsVoucher AttributesError Summary

Business Unit:MDJUDInvoice No:20150809TS

Voucher ID:00190881Invoice Date:10/09/2015

Voucher Style:Regular VoucherGross Invoice Amount:22.57

Control Group ID:A230-FY16State Status:Paid by State

Ref. Document Number:VZA23029AOC Vendor ID:SITARTAMMY-001

Vendor:SITAR TAMMY

Add/Update
Comments

State Payments

PersonalizeFindView AllFirst1 of 1Last

Received Date	Warrant Date	Trans Type	Transaction Description	Warrant Number	Payment Method	Offset Amount	Warrant Amount	Archive Reference Number
1 10/09/2015	10/30/2015	242	Payment	504057585	ACH		22.57	18021298

State Adjustments

PersonalizeFindView AllFirst1 of 1Last

Received Date	Trans Type	Transaction Description	Adjustment Amount	Adjustment Date	Adjustment Number	Doc ID	Document Date	Invoice Description
1								

Save

Return to SearchNotifyRefreshAddUpdate/Display

SummaryRelated DocumentsInvoice InformationAOC MD PaymentPaymentsVoucher AttributesError Summary



GEARS Checklist:

When entering the expense voucher into GEARS, please ensure each step noted on the Judicial Branch Expense Account Instructions is completed and correct. If using a hard copy of the Judicial Branch Expense Account form, you should verify that the math calculations are correct. Please ensure all required receipts are attached.

Below is a list of “Musts” for entering the voucher into GEARS:

1. First, determine if you should enter the reimbursement in GEARS or mail it. Expenses incurred as part of a grant (FCCIP/CANDO/etc.) should be mailed to the respective office for processing.
2. Ensure the invoice number is correct (example: 20150309TV - year/month/first day of travel/two initials in caps - first and last name). When selecting the initials, be sure to follow our standardization.
Where hyphenated or multiple last names are used, the last “last name” is to be utilized in the invoice number for all invoices. Example: John Andrews-Sanders, invoice number would utilize the initials JS. Andy Jon De Smith, invoice number would utilize the initials AS.
3. The invoice and accounting date is the date the voucher is entered into GEARS
4. Ensure coding is correct in the distribution lines.
5. Ensure the reimbursement form has been signed by the employee and supervisor as applicable.
6. Ensure ALL attachments are added (example: the actual expense form, receipts, agenda, approval) and in PDF format.
7. Confirm that the voucher amount and the expense form amount MATCH.
8. Run Budget Check and ensure the final status is “valid.” Resolve any budget checking errors.
9. Ensure you click “Submit for Approval” once the voucher has a successful “Valid” budget status.



Please refer to the Tip Sheet on the GEARS site for entry instructions and call the help desk for support as needed.

Contact Information:

- Tammy Sitar 410-260-1419
Budget and Finance Deputy Director
Travel Plan Administrator
- Travel Coordinator, Allison Leebrick 410-260-1417
- Accounts Payable Supervisor, Sharon Hoff 410-260-1412
- Accounts Payable Lead Worker, Trudy Brown 410-260-1378
- Help Desk 410-260-1114
- GEARS Website - <http://mdcourts.gov/gears/index.html>

For the most comprehensive and up-to-date information, please visit the Travel Policy Website at <http://mdcourts.gov/administration/travel.html>

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Any Questions?

